

senators, this bill extends the Rural Health Manpower Commission to July 1, 1990. It is a commission that Senator Tom Kennedy helped start in 1977. He made...we made two major changes in the original bill. Number one, we increased the amount that each student can borrow, from 7,000 up to 12,000 per year. Number two, we put a fee of \$500 for each rural town that uses the service to obtain a doctor. My rural district has five doctors placed through this commission. I urge the passage of LB 485.

PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator Schellpeper. Senator Wesely, please.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. President and members, I would rise in support of Senator Schellpeper's bill. I did carry the bill that extended the life of the commission back a few years ago and it has certainly proven itself. Some of the changes that have occurred since that time, instead of an independent entity, they have been merged with the Health Department. This bill, in statute, makes that clearer. In addition, there have been changes in some figures involving the loans that they make and I think generally cleans up some of the problems that we have had in this area. But I think the commission has served the state well. The rural areas have benefited from it and I would rise in support of LB 485.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Hefner, please, then Senator Warner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I rise to support LB 485. I think it's a good bill. I think it's necessary and I believe, if I remember correctly, Senator Kennedy was instrumental in getting this started. I represent a predominantly rural area and I know the problems that we have in attracting medical doctors to our area. And this is another tool that we can use. It is a tool that is widely used now, especially in the rural areas, and I think we need to update it, we need to change some things, and this bill certainly changes those things for the better. So I would urge your adoption or the advancement of LB 485.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Warner, then Senator Lynch.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I have a couple of questions, perhaps, for Senator Schellpeper. As he pointed out, this bill does affect the statutes that